IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7.   (currently amended)An operating/managing method in an operating/ managing system of a plurality of storage apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

connecting at least two storage apparatuses via at least two storage apparatuses connecting means of said operating/managing system with a computer,

wherein said at least two storage apparatuses include a storage apparatus being in use at present, said at least two storage apparatuses connecting means establish connections with said at least two storage apparatuses respectively;

causing a storage apparatus to be specified, said storage apparatus being in use at present;

holding address information of the specified storage apparatus in storage apparatus information holding means of said operating/managing system;

holding each property of said at least two storage apparatuses connected to said at least two storage apparatuses connecting means in property holding means of said operating/managing system;

causing a property to be specified, said a storage apparatus to be used next being requested to exhibit satisfy said property;

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causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected from among candidates of storage apparatuses indicated from said operating/managing system in accordance with the specified property and said each property of storage apparatuses stored in said property holding means;

holding the address information of the selected storage apparatus to be used next in said storage apparatus information holding means in addition to the address information of said a storage apparatus being in use at present;

requesting said selected storage apparatus to create a volume; and

instructing said selected storage apparatus to start duplication of data,

wherein connection destination switching means of said operating/managing system creates a copy of data sent from the computer and changes source address and destination address of the copy data to the address of corresponding storage apparatus connecting means and the address of said selected storage apparatus to be used next respectively in order for said operating/managing system to communicate with said selected storage apparatus and write the copy data into said selected storage apparatus, information duplicating means of said operating/managing system controls reading-out of data from said storage apparatus being in use at present and writing-in of said data into said storage apparatus to be used next based on said address information held in said storage apparatus information holding means.

8.   (currently amended)The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, subsequent to said step of

causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

indicating a fee needed for duplication of said data-,

wherein said fee is calculated based on the volume allocated in said storage apparatus being in use at present.

9.   (currently amended)The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, wherein subsequent to said step of requesting said selected storage apparatus, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

charging a fee to a user of a storage apparatus operating system that owns said selected storage apparatus.

Claim 10 (canceled).